Depot Town Rag

APRIL 1987
for the good of the block

Foundation
Thurs, 4/2 - 8 p.m.

Association
Thurs, 4/16 - 7:30 p.m.

Antique Engine Club
Thurs, 4/23

Artists & Artisans
Every Wednesday, - 7:30 p.m.

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. **The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198**

Recyclers -- Back to Frog Island

The Ypsilanti Recycling Center was born at the north end of Frog Island, wandered over to the rear of City Body for a while, and now they are preparing to re-open close to the home of their birth. Look for the Recycling Center to reappear this month across the parking lot from the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market next to Frog Island. Their new location will handily divide the parking lot into two separate lots and provide easy access from Rice Street for Saturday morning recyclers.

Depot Town Artists & Artisans (DTA & A) Formed

Fifteen local artists have formed the Depot Town Artists and Artisans as an adjunct to the Depot Town Association Inc. in much the same manner as the Antique Engine Club, and plan to hold weekly meetings in the Old Caboose. Initial programs will focus on portfolio building and critiques of recent works. The March 14 craft show at the Farmers' Market saw their first public group exhibition which included paintings, tiles, jewelry and photography.

The group has appointed Helen Bunch as their liason to the DTA and hopes to soon offer life drawing classes. Their next projects include helping to host the return of the Michigan Artrain and a related exhibition of their works at August's Heritage Festival.

A bylaws committee is developing a list of recomendations and interested artists and are invited to join them in the Old Caboose at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.

ARTRAIN Is, Indeed, OUR-TRAIN!

Depot Towners Painting the Train

Local artists and neighborhood activists, Tom Dodd (our editor) and Carolyn McKeever (Ma Jazz), have been contracted to paint the exterior of the Michigan Artrain in a Michigan Sesquicentennial theme of its 1987 tour of the state with all-Michigan art from the Cranbrook Collection on board its rolling art galleries. March weekends saw the pair cleaning and back-painting the nearly six-hundred feet of rail stock in the winter storage yards at Mt. Clemens' Selfridge Air Force Base. April's finishing touches will be applied at the Artrain's first two stops: Romulus and Plymouth. The week of April 12 will see the final brushwork completed the site of Dodd's high school graduation, Walled Lake.

Will the Artrain return to Ypsilanti to show off this huge piece of artistic boosterism? City Manager, Matt Hennessee is considering City sponsorship to bring the nation's only rail-based art gallery for its fourth visit to Depot Town. The Artrain carefully follows Ypsilanti's recent milestones to success: 1971, 1981, 1986, with these successes coming with greater frequency, it may not be long before the Michigan Artrain just stays here all the time.

First Lady Awards Program Started

Depot Town's 'Ma Jazz' Nominated

Michigan's unsung heroines, those women whose outstanding contributions to the community have gone unrecognized, will be honored as part of the Sesquicentennial Commission are sponsoring the Michigan 150 First Lady Award program.

Citizens in every Michigan county will have the opportunity to select a specified number of local nominees to be considered by a state selection committee. This committee will select 150 women from throughout Michigan 150 First Lady Award.

Carolyn McKeever, long active in promoting Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town, is among the nominees for the Award. McKeever is a past president of the Depot Town Association, promoter of jazz events for the good of the district, graphic artist, Huron Watershed Commissioner, Heritage Festival planner, former City Councilmember, and chair of the next Festival of Lights. She teaches art at EMU, Henry Ford Community College and Washtenaw Community College, and is the personal friend of wildlife on the grounds of Frog Island. Her recent efforts on her building at 29 East Cross Street have thrust her into the practical world of historic preservation, as well.

Four regional workshops for Sesquicentennial leaders were held around the state beginning in late February to explain the details of the program. First Lady Paula Blanchard personally attended workshops in Marquette, Clare, Kalamazoo, and Detroit. For more information about the program, please contact Ms. Carol Barnes, (517) 373-2884 at the Michigan Women's Commission.

NIFTY Program Initiated

February 24th saw DTA's first presentation of the NIFTY program (New Initiative For Tourism in Ypsilanti) to EMU's Community nterpretation call at Paponetti's Pasta in Depot Town. Visitors & Convention Bureau director Valerie Franklin and Fifth Ward councilmember Lynda Hummel aided DTA folks in presenting a variety of slide and video presentations hyping the quality of life in Depot Town. The program will be evaluated by the EMU class and presented to other organizations influential in drawing new clientele to the neighborhood.

Here's the first response:

Dear NIFTY Folks,

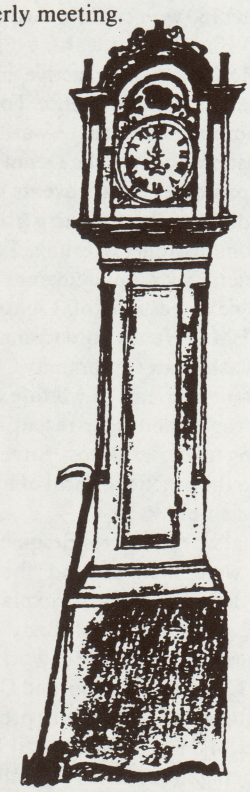
Thanks for Tuesday's party in Depot Town. I returned Thursday to see the real bricks and stores by day that you introduced to us by slides and film that night. The architecture is just as impressive; so were the storekeepers I met; definitely 'hospitable' - which is just what I expected after meeting all of you. I do hope we'll have reasons to work together to infect others with your enthusiasm and community pride.

Sincerely, Joan Jensen, Milford

Included in the NIFTY program were:

- Festival of Lights slide show
- An Architectural History of Random Falls
- A Sesquicentennial Minute from WJIM
- Detroit TV feature on Miller Motors
- A Victorian Storefront is Missing
- A ten-year photo history of the block

This month, the Antique Engine Club has added still more video (steam boats and gas engines, of course) to the list and suggests DTA run the whole show for its next quarterly meeting.



New Initiative For Tourism in Ypsilanti (NIFTY)

Promoting Events and Local Color as Attractions in Depot Town NIFTY Goal: To develop tourism in Depot Town by promoting weekend attractions, specialty shopping events and shows.

Objectives:

1. To promote Depot Town to specially invited target groups and audiences with staged events, i.e. beer and pizza parties, press and media events.
2. To utilize the warm weather months for outside events in Depot Town.

a. To utilize the charm of a historic place as an attraction for staged events.

b. To increase pedestrian traffic and increase opportunities for potential sales in the retail businesses.

c. To enhance the image of Depot Town and greater Ypsilanti.

d. To encourage attractive market places and improve retail operations in Depot Town.

f. To augment the impact of the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival.

g. To encourage cooperation with the City of Ypsilanti, its businesses, its institutions and particularly within the DTA and its member groups.

Strategies and implementation:

The programs and events will directly relate to Depot Town's character, organizations and needs. Each weekend will have a distinctive and unique event. The DTA and its member groups as assigned by the DTA will be responsible for marketing, management and control of the NIFTY programs.

Responsibilities and funds:

Responsibility for the program will be that of the parent Depot Town Association and its designated chair(s). The DTA and its member groups will provide start-up finds with a profit-sharing plan as agreed to within the organizations and sponsors.

* * * * * * * *

Ideas for turning the uniqueness and charm of historic Depot Town into fun and profit:

- Antique auto swaps
- T'birds - Hudsons - Fords - Packards, etc.
- Railradianna swaps
- Farm toys, antique toys, antique toy trains
- Antique engines
- Antique glass and paper, prints, etc.
- Antique clothes, vintage items, jewelry
- Antique furniture, oak and wicker
- Antique glass, stained glass
- Antique war items, uniforms, demos
- Art Deco show and sale with light show
- Tail Gate Swap meets with Barbeque
- Queen Victoria: English and American antiques
- Bird market as in Paris
- Pet and fish show and sale
- Spring plant and flower show and sale
- Boomer Days
- June Jazz and Happy Hoe Down on Sunday
- Postcards and stamps
- Gold rush: antique jewelry and coins
- City-wide and a few families flea fleece
- Heritage Festival
- Antique copper pots and pans, bottles, etc.
- Rustic Americana Antiques and show
- Tramp art and trash show
- Sale and salute to Michigan Arts and crafts
- Paper, posters, prints; Antique and new
- Add your ten-or-more ideas
- Color your profit picture green - like in money
- Get the lead and red out, out, out.

Antiques -

CROSS STREET ANTIQUES
33 East Cross

Vintage Passion
Unusual & Different Costume Jewelry
32 East Cross

Thompson Building Mall
Over 4000 square feet of dealers
412 North River • 484-4288

Depot Exchange Antiques
Professional Furniture Stripping
54 East Cross

Jim MacDonald's Antiques
Apple Annie's
Vintage Clothing
29 East Cross • 481-0555

"Rotten, Frozen and Worthless. . at Ypsilanti"

from the Phoebe Miller Depot Town Collection

From a billing issued in November 1911:
"Michigan Central Railroad Company
Agent's Office, Ypsilanti, Michigan
November 20, 1911

Your WB52 11/10 AGS 11701 - 11 bags potatoes for Mary Wigle. Cks at Jct yds potatoes rotten. Frozen and worthless and at Ypsilanti.

-- E.E. Mowrer, agent
New York Central Lines
Ticket Office, Tel. 44
Freight Office, Tel, 63

-- and on display in the Freight House Coffee Shop.

The passing of Jack Miller's mother, Phoebe, opened a wealth of information from her extensive collection of clippings and publications which document the recent history of Depot Town. Phoebe Miller watched us carefully and kept a most accurate record of the district's activities. The Rag will feature many of the items in forthcoming issues. Thanks, Jack - and thanks to Phoebe, too.

Food Services -

Aubree's Saloon & Second Floor
39 East Cross

Pronto Pizza
Pizza & Subs
37 East Cross 483-4555

Sidetrack
Good Food, Good Drinks, Good Times
56 East Cross 483-1053

Old Town Restaurant
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
38 East Cross

Paponetti's Pasta
Homemade Italian Food & Pastries
17 East Cross 483-3574

-Services-

River Art Works
Custom Framing
48 East Cross 482-8785

Ike's Depot Town Barbershop
40 East Cross • 483-6300

City Radiator
110 North River 483-2248

Ted's Auto Electric
307 North River 483-1238

Ypsilanti Recycling Project
20 East Cross • 487-9727

Hansen's
Standard Printing
35 East Cross • 483-0339

Depot Doo
Fine Design in Hair Style
25 East Cross ‡ 484-3045

Ted's Auto Electric
307 North River 483-1238

Congressman Bill Ford's Medal of Merit For Outstanding Youth

now accepting applications for

Outstanding Youths

Senior High, ages 14-18
High School graduates ages 18-22
and Outstanding Youth Group
Deadline: March 25, 1987
For additional information, Call Congressman Bill Ford's Office -722-1411 or Committe Member Bonni Rosen-Fine - 482-3463

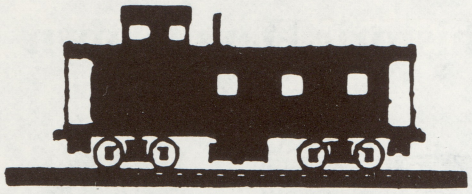
THE HUNT WILL SOON BE ON!

The **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** will be held in Riverside Park on Saturday April 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Children up to the age of 12 are invited to participate.

Games, prizes, balloons, candy, clowns (or "baby bunnies"), the Easter Bunny, Professor Malarkey and of course, the Easter Egg Hunt will all be happening during these two hours. A lot of time has already been devoted to the Hunt by the CBC, the Jaycees, the Boy's and Girl's Clubs, Full Circle, and Depot Town. **But** - we can always use additional, interested and enthusiastic members, like you, to help! If you meet the above criteria, please feel free to arrive at the Park that morning, around 9:00 a.m. or so, or if you prefer, give me a call (Chris Maxton 483-6868). Either way, we'll be able to put you to work! If unable to find time to volunteer, then we will certainly appreciate your appearance, preferably with children, either yours *or* someone else's!

Last year there were between 350 and 400 kids from what I've been told, so let's see if we can keep the egg rolling this year!

HAPPY EASTER!!!



D.T.A. 19 March 1987

Minutes of February meeting approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Total	$8554.98
General	3579.26
Rag	(912.30)
Jazz	6024.55
Caboose	30.00
Halloween	32.78
Billboard	(467.24)
Boomer Days	53.93
Merchants	214.00

Depot Town Artists and Artisans have formed as a committee of DTA with Helen Bunch as their liason and first vice president to the Association.

Liability Insurance reviewed with Mark Kotter.

- Increased liability for broader promotional programming. Association, Foundation, Merchants, Engine Club and Artists' programs may necessitate greater coverage for premise liability. We currently carry $500,000 bodily injury, $100,000 property damage.
- City of Ypsilanti has raised its liquor liability requirement ftom $250,000 to $500,000 per event - about $200 more for each day's premium.

Sobbry's City Body Open House is planned for Heritage Festival.

Sales agreement for the MCRR depot has been announced by City Hall's Joan Helkaa.

Best Yet Award to Linda Williams of Vintage Passion for her constant promotion for the good of the block through her creative costuming throughout the community.

Golden Goose Award to whomever was supposed to sand/salt the northside alley last winter.

Treasurer, Eric Ward, will be replaced by Judith Monaghan when he leaves for the University of Illinois in Chicago to complete a degree in architecture. Good luck, Eric. You've done a fine job for your Association. And - thanks, Judith, for stepping into a huge responsibility.

NIFTY (New Initiative For Tourism in Ypsilanti) promotional hyperbole:

- "Victoria Goes Flapper", a concept of antiques, Garbo films, big bands, Busby Berkeley films, etc., is being studied as a proposed event for the district.
- Antique engine Tail Gate Swap Meet set for Memorial Day, Monday, May 25.
- See NIFTY Goals and Projects printed elsewhere in this issue.
- Meadows will serve as chair with Mondaghan, Rosen-Fine, Dodd and others on the committee.
- Michigan Council on tourism meets at Detroit's Westin Hotel March 29, 30 with Carolyn McKeever attending for the Visitors and Convention Bureau.
- State's 'Ambassador' and 'Embassy' awards are being considered for Depot Town promotions.
- Professor Malarky and Peter Rabbit will add to the April 18 Easter festivities in Riverside park.
- CBC's Summer Festival is June 19, 20.

Antique Engine Club submits 1867 clipping, continues with Domino's land development plans of 150 acres of exposition space, plans first Swap Meet for Memorial Day.

Rag Report features April Fool's edition, is behind on collections for sponsorships, inadvertenly omitted Hon's Flowers' ad for two months. Sorry.

Artrain press conferences are set for March 24 in Romulus and April 1 in Plymouth, featuring McKeever and Dodd painting the exterior. City of Ypsilanti is considering sponsoring Artrain's return for its Sesquicentennial tour of the state.

Jazz Promotions

- **Winter Series** showed $1500 profit to both DTA and WEMU. Liquor liability costs continue to rise and higher ticket prices are being considered. Earlier closing is also possible.
- **Heritage Jazz Competition** may consider barring minors from attendance. Jazz wrap-up session will be announced soon.

Huron River Day is set for July 12th with events up and down the river basin. Boomer Days, Karp for Kids Kontest, Engine Club events are planned for the district.

Clean Michigan Fund Advisory Panel - Carolyn McKeever appointed to serve by Michigan House Speaker, Gary M. Owen.

First Lady Awards - Carolyn McKeever's contributions to Ypsilanti will be recognized by nominating her for that award from first lady. Paula Blanchard's office.

Specialties -

The Grand Trunk, Ltd.
Cards & Gifts
15 East Cross 485-4994

Big Bob's Magazines
Magazines, Comics, Posters
50 East Cross 485-4930

PEDDLER'S PATH
44 East Cross

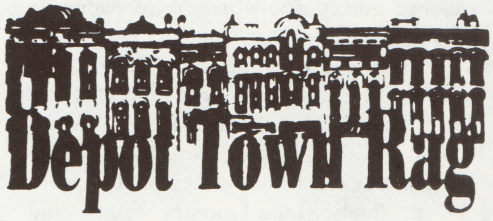
Food Services -

Ypsi Food Co-op
3112 North River 483-1520

The Vitamin Shoppe
Vitamins, Herbs,
Nutritional Suppliments
9 East Cross • 485-2711

Miller's Ice Cream
42 East Cross 485-7548

Ypsilanti's
Farmer's Market
Every Wednesday & Saturday
in the Freight House



THE DEPOT TOWN RAG:

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

The Depot Town Association, Inc.,
Gary McKeever, President
The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Support the Businesses that bring you The Depot Town Rag

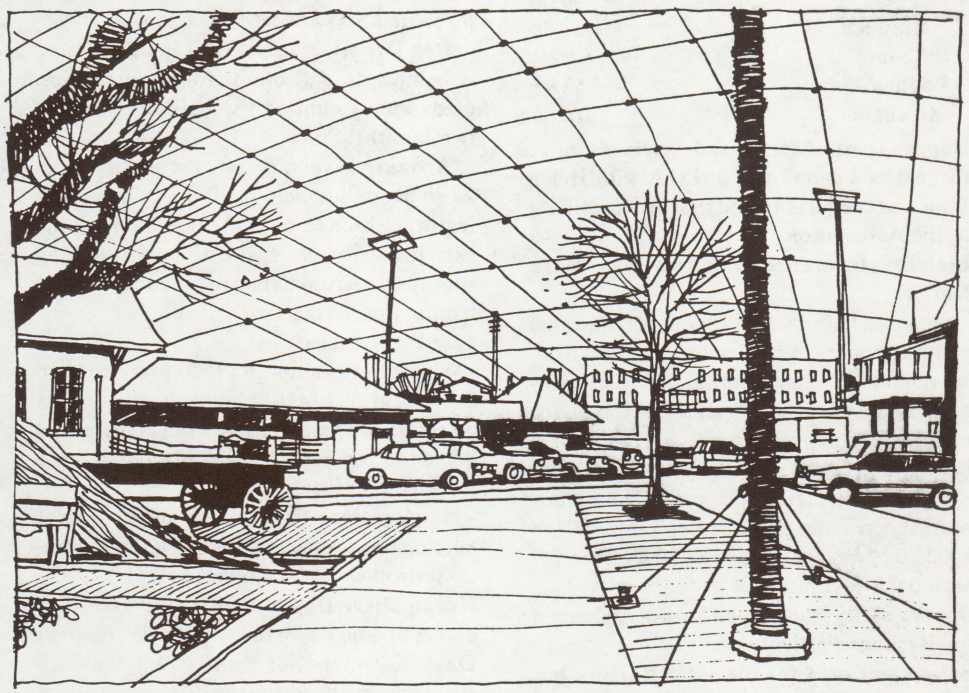
Hansen's
Standard Printing
35 East Cross • 483-0339

An April Fools' Sesqui- history of Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town

(Past April issues have touted MacDonald's erecting golden arches above the depot and Buckminster Fuller's plan to enclose the district in a geodesic dome. When Peter Murdock was first elected Mayor of the City, his front yard was decorated with silly campaign signs on April first of that election season and the event was carefully documented by Dennis Dunleavy, award-winning photographer from the Ypsilanti Press. Other years have seen rude bumper stickers mysteriously appearing on vehicles in the district. This year's foolishness focuses upon our 150-years since achieving statehood.)

FREE 100% RAG CONTENT

APRIL 1986
Foundation
Thursday, 3rd, 8 p.m.
Association
Thursday, 17th, 7:30 p.m.
...in the Old Caboose



At the depot - in 1837:

- An early promoter of Depot Town, Darlingford, Eduard Potoski held the north east corner of Cross and River Streets before the first annexation to the original City plat. An early land speculator, Potoski sold out before the railroad came through, dropped the -oski from his name to disguise his eastern European origins, but the neighborhood was named for him, nonetheless. (D.E.Pot Town) After leaving Ypsilanti, Potoski gathered stones for gift shops along the shores of the Great Lakes. He was often confused with L.P. (Pete) Oskey who developed upper portions of the lower peninsula (L.P.) of Michigan.
- The most popular eatery 'at the depot' was the Lo Kee Chinese restaurant operated by a Mr. Yoo No Hoo. West-side mill owners across the river were so wealthy they sent their hands out to be washed at the Depot Town Chinese Hand Laundry. Frog Island was the location of the Lee Kee Boat Yard.
- Wells for mineral baths were dug here, mostly to clean up the early settlers who had emerged from the 'great swamps' to the north, but also because they were downwind of Ann Arbor.
- The first bridge across the Huron River was an iron drawbridge with one of the most complicated mechanisms ever built -- only to rust away to ruin from lack of use since no large boats ever came this far up the Huron River.
- Michigan's first rail travelers often turned surly or cranky in Ypsilanti's Depot Town when, after their first few days in the neighborhood, they realized this was not Chicago. Since the steam engines of the day had no brakes, it took only a few more years until the grade was completed to Ann Arbor, Jackson, Kalamazoo and points west.
- 'Ma' Bush was not deterred by the incomplete railroad, however, and wrote promotional brochures for her tea room in the railroad district. "On the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan," extolled her slick advertising slogan in 1837. The Huron River may have been wider then and many tourists were fooled into believing they were 'way out west.'
- The district's newspaper, The Depot Town Rag, was smaller in those days - one copy of one page - and the editor went around town reading to whomever would listen. The paper eventually expanded and was soon reknowned as the county's most reputable chain of drive-in hat-blocking enterprises.

RIVER ARTWORKS
CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN

The Cricket Box
19 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
(313) 487-5595

Miller's
Ice Cream
42 E. Cross
•
Historic Depot Town
OPEN ALL YEAR!

WPAG - Easy Listening Radio - will feature four Depot Twon businesses in new ads beginning this week. Linda and Virginia, of Vintage Passion, say, "We feel that radio may be the way to go to bring people to Depot Town."

The seven-spot, thirty-second ads cost each business ten dollars per spot and also include a dozen separate announcements about Depot Town, in general.

Depot Town's clientele can win a trip to Historic Williamsburg, Virginia via the WPAG promotion for the good of the block. Participating businesses have promoted the competition during the month of March by purchasing twenty 30-second spots for $280.00, or $70 per business. Thanks, Depot Towners, for supporting such a campaign for the district and its supporters.

WEMU may have started it all, with their constant promotion of the many DTA/-WEMU-sponsored jazz events in the block. With June, August, January, February and March concerts in Depot Town, Jim Dulzo's dulcet tones boost this block for at least six months of every broadcast year. Many of our businesses have tied their commercial/-sponsorships to these events, as well. Radio, after all, helps to introduce many new clientele to the excitement of today's 'born again' railroad district in Ypsilanti.

Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market
in historic Depot Town

On Exhibit: "Trains, trains and more trains"

Saturday Events

4/4 Pysanka Ukranian Easter Eggs Hands-on demonstration, 9-12, sales, too.

4/11 Spring/Easter Craft Show Crafts & Gifts 8-3

4/18 "Railviews" Action slides of The Rio Grande & Grand Trunk, 9-2

4/25 "Growing Backyard Herbs" 8-3 Display, info, plant sale.

Wed & Sat 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CLASSIFIED:

Depot Town Storefront for rent. Call 482-3463.

RAGTIME

Just Fooling Around in April . . . Down in Depot Town

Twelve Years Old!

Come celebrate the Ypsilanti Food Co-op's 12th birthday, April 11, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., with a day of fun and health birthday-baking alternatives.

The winner and finalists of the co-op's Mar. 21 baking contest will provide recipes and samples of their prize-winning delights, which will be made with whole grain flours, no animal fats, and natural sweeteners. A clown and musicians will join the celebration.

The Co-op is a not-for-profit, community business which has been serving Ypsilanti since 1975. The co-op sells nutritious, whole foods at the lowest possible price, and offers an alternative to profit-seeking stores. The Co-op is located at 312 N. River St., Depot Town, in Ypsilanti.

For more information about the birthday celebration, call the Co-op at 483-1520.

YPSI FOOD COOP

WHOLE NATURAL FOOD IN BULK OR SMALL QUANTITIES

M.T.Th.F. 10-7 Wed. 10-9 312 N.River
483-1520 Sat. 9-7 Sun. 12-5

Hon's Flowers continues to set the pace for gorgeous window displays on the block. That superlative corner opportunity at Cross and Ninde streets has brought a hint of spring for many months, now, and, inside --it smells like it's been summertime all year long.

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 East Cross 482-2124

Vintage Passion
Unusual & Different Costume Jewelry
32 East Cross

Vintage Passion's Linda Williams was included in a benefit fashion show billed as "Bronze Elegance - A Parade of Fashion" at the Michigan Union on Sunday, March 15th where all proceeds went to help minority students at the University of Michigan. The event was sponsored by MYSTIC - Minority Youth Striving to Incorporate Cohesiveness.

Linda reports, "The room was packed, and a good time was had by all." Vintage Passion received 'rave' reviews on the evening's outfits which represented every style and era promoted for the glitzy event.

Congratulations, Linda. Your 'Mrs. Dress-Up' routine has been a good promotion for the whole neighborhood.

And There's Room For Any Number to Play:

Many Depot Towners have realized that 'clothes are a put-on' and have taken full advantage of that fact to call popular attention to the interesting goings-on in Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town.

- more folks every year design historic costumes for Heritage Festival
- shopkeepers adorn themselves with ancient and traditional aprons, skirts, vest and hats just to ad to the neighborhood ambience as they crank up their awnings or was their show windows
- the Victorian Holiday gives another opportunity to drag those old outfits out of the attic
- Boomer Days sees more costumes than any event all year, with bums, tramps and hoboes of all ages descending upon the district
- Engine Clubbers adorn themselves with badges, funny hats and other emblems to create an identity for themselves and the block
- the Ypsilanti Players often call this block their home and constantly surprise their neighbors with their exciting costumes
- Professor Malarky, Peter Rabbit and a variety of Dr. Seuss characters make regular appearances throughout the year
- Depot Town, Farmers' Market and WEMU T-shirts fill almost every dresser and closet in the block to continue supporting an easily read identity for this part of the community.

Since everything you choose to wear is a costume, why not plan your habiliment to fit the identity of Depot Town? Follow Linda Williams' excellent example. It's much appreciated by everyone you meet on the street.